



[HOME](#)

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[NEWS](#)

[CONTACT](#)

Dear Friend,

I hope you and your loved ones had a happy holiday season filled with celebration, relaxation and reflection.

In Washington, a new year has brought new changes -- including a Democratic House majority. Thursday kicked off the beginning of the 116th Congress, which boasts historic levels of diversity, [including 102 women](#).



One of our first priorities is to end this shutdown that has stalled the economy, hampered important services and harmed hundreds of thousands of federal employees. On Thursday night, House Democrats got down to business, passing a spending bill that includes many provisions found in earlier bills supported by congressional Republicans in both chambers. But because it didn't include funding for Trump's needless border wall, the GOP-controlled Senate has refused to take it up and the President has vowed to veto it.

Democrats support common-sense border security, and it's disheartening to see Washington Republicans refuse to compromise because they are clinging to a costly, ineffective and xenophobic measure that won't keep us safe and sends a terrible message to the world. I will keep working to fund the government in a manner that doesn't compromise our values, and to protect our federal employees affected by the shutdown, [I'm supporting a bill](#) that provides them with well-deserved back pay. We owe it to these dedicated public servants and their families.

Another top priority in the new Congress is tackling the toxic influence of unchecked special interests. To address this problem, House Democrats today introduced [H.R. 1](#), The For the People Act of 2019, a bill to institute reforms that make it easier to vote, address big money in politics, and strengthen ethics laws. I'm proud to cosponsor this important legislation, because Congress must work for the people, not just the 1 percent.



I'm heading home today and want to remind fellow Centennial State residents that Open Enrollment in Colorado continues until January 15, meaning it's not too late to get covered through the Affordable Care Act in the new year. Visit connectforhealthco.com to shop for quality and affordable health insurance plans.



As we kick off a new year and a new Congress, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue serving you. A new majority means new opportunities to advance the values we hold dear, deliver for working families, and provide much-needed oversight of President Trump and his administration. We've turned a corner that provides a path out of this dark political chapter in our nation's history, and I'll make sure we don't miss this chance.



As always, you can visit [my website](#), where you can read my positions on issues and learn about the different ways my staff can assist you. While you're there, be sure to visit the "[Contact](#)" page and send me an email about what matters most to you and your family. Finally, please share this email with your friends, family, and neighbors so that they too can be a part of this important dialogue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diana".

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

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